

Medics Share Lessons Learned:

Mortar Attack Spurs Medical Adjustments

By Staff Sgt. Rebekah-mae
Bruns

39th Brigade Combat Team
Public Affairs

TAJI, Iraq— It's 5 a.m. and the cry for a "Medic!" goes out across the morning darkness. There are loud explosions, mortars detonating.

"You hear them scream 'Medic!' and you go," said Sgt. Susan Hoffmeister, a petite 24-year-old Soldier from Newport, Ark.

A mass casualty is something most hope they never have to experience. Yet it happened for Hoffmeister and fellow Soldiers when they received mortar attacks in Taji that killed four, seriously wounded six and left 23 other Soldiers with minor injuries.

"It happens," said the young, veteran medic calmly. "You don't really stop to think about it. Everything you ever trained on kicks in."

The recent losses suffered by Hoffmeister's Support Battalion in the 39th Brigade Combat Team (BCT) haven't been easy. In fact they are tragic, but as they struggle to make sense of the events, they are sharing what works and what doesn't on the battlefield. They are lending their experiences to help other medics operate more effectively in the event of a mass casualty.

Traveling to Baghdad, the team of medics recently helped the Oregon National Guard's 2nd Battalion 162nd Infantry, tear apart and reorganize their

aid station. The Arkansas Guardsmen offered to assist using their lessons learned to help Oregon Soldiers avoid problems in the future.

"They saw we were split up with our trauma and sick call room," said 1st Lt. Marvin McAllister, 36, from Lincoln City, Ore. "So supplies and personnel were divided.

The standard separate rooms for sick call and trauma were a 'No Go.' Getting everything into one room turned out to be key.

Dividing assets created

logistical problems and a routine sick call can turn into a life and death situation said 1st Lt. Robin Lowery, a 39th Brigade physician's assistant from Little Rock, Ark.

"It's difficult to coordinate when you're running back and forth," Lowery said.

They also discovered it was easier to

have everything in kits; Airway kits, circulation kits, bleeding control kits, and IV kits; all of it made and ready for quick

access.

"Mostly it was just putting the equipment where it could most easily be used," Lowery said. "It was going back to the ABCs and basic life-saving skills."

As a final adjustment to the transformation, they made a crash cart that contained the same drugs and instruments a hospital emergency room would have.

But improvements won't stop there. As the war in Iraq moves forward so will the medics' ideas for competent and resourceful treatment.

"No matter when it happens, how it happens, or who it happens to," Hoffmeister said. "You will always find things to improve on."

**"You hear
them scream
'Medic!' and
you go."**

**-Sgt. Susan
Hoffmeister,
Medic,
39th Brigade
Combat Team**



By Staff Sgt. Rebekah-mae Bruns, 39th BCT PAO

1st Lt. Robin Lowery, of Little Rock, Ark., treats a patient in Baghdad, Iraq. Lowery is a physician's assistant specializing in emergency medicine.

Soldiers Remember a Fallen Friend

By Pfc. Erik LeDrew
122nd MPAD

CAMP CUERVO- A memorial service took place at Cuervo Forward Operating Base, Baghdad, in honor of fallen Soldier Spc. Justin Johnson, who was killed in action on April 10 when his patrol vehicle hit an improvised explosive device.

Johnson, a Fire Support Specialist with 4th Platoon, Headquarters and Service Battery, 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery, 1st Cavalry Division, was remembered by his fellow service members as a model Soldier.

"J.J. was the kind of Soldier that every officer wants to lead, the kind of Soldier every [noncommissioned officer] wants to work with," said platoon leader 1st Lt. Christopher Haun. "He was the epitome of what a Soldier in 4th platoon should be."

Johnson, a Rome, Ga. native, was assigned as a forward observer to the 1st Brigade Reconnaissance Team, where he worked on the

Combat Observation Lasering Team (COLT).

Pvt. 2 Joey Cantu, who has known Johnson since they attended Advanced Individual Training together in 2002, recalled Johnson as a fellow Soldier and as a friend.

"He was a real easy person to get along with," Cantu said. "He was humble and a real quiet person and if he had something to say you would listen to him."

Cantu said Johnson was also a very caring individual.

"He did what he could for his family, making sure that his sister was taken care of," Cantu said. "He was going to get married when he got back. When I woke up and heard the news, it was unbelievable. No one expects something like that to happen."

"On or off duty, Justin was easy going and well liked, and just a great guy to be around," Haun said. "He was a true quiet professional."

"All we can do is pray for him and hold on to our memo-

ries of him and keep fighting for what he died fighting for," Cantu said.

Johnson was awarded the Bronze Star Medal and the Purple Heart, both posthumously. In addition, he bore the National Defense Service Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and Army Service Ribbon.

"I will miss him," Haun said. "The hearts of 4th platoon go out to J.J.'s family and his sweetheart."

Johnson was born June 25, 1981, and enlisted in the Army Jan. 24, 2002. He was stationed with the 1st Cav. Div. on July 15, 2002 and was deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II on Mar. 13, 2004.



By Pfc. Erik LeDrew, 122nd MPAD

1st Lt. Christopher Haun, Headquarters and Service Battery, 1st Battalion, 82nd Field Artillery, 1st Cavalry Division, kneels before the display of Spc. Johnson's rifle, helmet, ID tags and boots at the memorial service. Haun was Johnson's platoon leader.

Have Package - Will Deliver

Have a package to mail home? Need a money order? You're in luck! The new Victory North APO is up and fully operational. (located next to the new Division Chapel)

Hours of operation: Monday - Friday, 9 a.m to 5 p.m., Saturday - Sunday, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Friday

High: 98 Low: 70



Saturday

High: 101 Low: 68



Sunday

High: 102 Low: 70



Reminder:

Mother's Day is
Sunday, May 9

✓ Call Mom

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1CD Mission Proceeds As Planned

► From Killeen Daily Herald

The 1st Cavalry Division remains focused on winning over Iraqis and has not seen any fallout from the Abu Ghraib prison scandal that has rocked the service and U.S. policy in the Middle East, the division's deputy commanding general said Wednesday.

"Here within the 1st Cavalry Division in Baghdad, we pretty much remain on task," said Brig. Gen. Jeff Hammond. "Nothing has caused us to change the mission."

Wednesday's protest outside the prison in western Baghdad by about 2,000 Iraqis went largely unnoticed by the Fort Hood-based troops, said Hammond.

While the prisons are in the 1st Cavalry's area, they are not under the division's control, Hammond said.

He added most Iraqis understand that the behavior of the U.S. Soldiers in the Abu Ghraib prison is not reflective of the entire force.

"We've been very up-front with this," Hammond said. "We're in the midst of a war, but we're willing to come forth and admit to a bad mistake. They appreciate that."

The scandal, however, has increased the division's aware-



ness of detention issues, Hammond said.

Hammond said each of the division's five brigades has its own detention center. A sixth is operated at the division level.

Maj. Gen. Pete Chiarelli, the division's commander, has been briefed on the status of the detainees, Hammond said, adding the division maintains oversight of the centers.

"We have ensured our standards are high," Hammond said. "We have trained our Soldiers to ensure they understand the Geneva Conventions."

Trained detention Soldiers also have been assigned to the division from Army prison facilities such as Fort Leavenworth, Kan., Hammond said.

"This was a 1st Cav initiative," Hammond said.

Despite the widespread uproar that prompted senior White House officials, including President Bush, to appear on national and Arab television, Hammond said the Iraqi media has remained more focused on infrastructure concerns and quality-of-life issues for Baghdad's 6 million-plus

residents.

The division is gearing up to address those concerns, Hammond said. Sewer, water, electricity and trash clean-up were the division's priorities.

The projects, he said, are critical to the success of the 1st Cavalry's mission in Iraq.

"We need to engage the Iraqi people, pursue public works projects and create jobs," Hammond said. "We need to keep them working."

Hammond said \$50 million has been earmarked for Sadr City, the impoverished Shiite neighborhood that was the scene of a bloody attack on the division in April. Another \$40 million will be spent in the south Baghdad neighborhood of Al Rashid.

Within the next two weeks, Hammond said a series of civic projects worth \$140 million will be under way.

"In the 1st Cav, one hand is out holding the enemy by the neck and we're not going to let it go. ... The other is reaching out to get public works done right," Hammond said.

"There's a lot more good days than bad days," Hammond said. "(Iraqis) are seeing the best part of American society — that's the 1st Cav Soldier."

Hammond said the division had been able to re-establish convoy routes disrupted during April's insurgency and troops were experiencing fewer direct-fire engagements with the enemy.

The enemy is back in the shadows," Hammond said.

"The Soldiers are doing well," Hammond said. "Morale is good."

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| Regular | 1.79 ⁹ / ₁₀ |
| Plus | 1.89 ⁹ / ₁₀ |
| Supreme | 1.99 ⁹ / ₁₀ |
| Diesel | 1.69 ⁹ / ₁₀ |

Temple Daily Telegram

Gas Prices On The Rise, Throughout State, Nation

► From Temple Daily Telegram

Prices for regular unleaded gasoline in Temple ranged from \$1.67 to \$1.79 per gallon, averaging \$1.74 per gallon, in a survey of 14 service stations on Wednesday. That compared to the \$1.71 average at conventional service stations in Texas on Monday, reported by the Energy Department.

Only three weeks ago, Texas drivers were paying an average of \$1.67 per gallon of regular unleaded fuel, as monitored by the AAA auto club in eight Texas cities.

In the survey of 14 service stations in Temple, the cheapest gasoline, at a \$1.67 per gallon, was at the BP at 1610 N. Interstate 35 and the 7-Eleven at West Adams Avenue and Loop 363. Gas was \$1.68 at the 7-Eleven in the 700 block of East Adams Avenue.

FIRST TEAM

'And Yet Another Use for Duct Tape'

► From *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette*

LITTLE ROCK, Ark.- Little Rock bass pro Scott Rook claimed a milestone victory Saturday in an EverStart Series tournament on the Red River out of Natchitoches, La., winning a national bass tournament for the first time in his career.

"It was a huge win for me," said Rook, who finished second in the 2001 Bassmaster Classic. "I've never won a tournament outside of Arkansas. I've finished in the top five several times, but I'd never won one. That bridesmaid jinx was really getting me. I had a big monkey on my back, and I finally got it off of me."

Rook's victory is also noteworthy because of how it came about.

Scott Morehead of Paducah, Ky., and Rook finished the final round in a tie with 27 pounds apiece, but Rook earned the victory

because ties are broken based on the heaviest weight during the opening round, when Rook caught more than Morehead.

Rook's victory was his first in a national tournament and therefore his first in an event sanctioned by FLW Outdoors, which administers the EverStart Series, a sort of minor league for the FLW Tour.

Rook fishes mainly on the Bassmaster Tour, the FLW's rival, and that created another



FLW Outdoors

Scott Rook, of Little Rock, Ark., holds his prize-winning fish while wearing his duct-taped sponsor's shirt.

interesting element to Saturday's victory.

Because FLW rules prohibit fishermen from wearing signage that conflicts with FLW sponsors, Rook had to put duct tape on several areas of his logo-filled shirt during final-round fishing.

Since Rook fishes mostly Bassmaster events, where logo rules aren't as stringent, his tournament shirts all have sponsor logos that aren't allowed in the final round of FLW Outdoors tournaments.

"Usually, if I make a final in one of their events, I'll just wear a Ranger Tshirt without any patches," Rook said.

But to qualify for additional prize money in the Ranger Cup incentive program, Rook is required to wear a Ranger shirt with a Ranger Cup patch on it. The only shirt he had like that during last week's tournament also carried conflicting sponsor patches.

And yet another use for duct tape was born.

Today in History

May 7

► From historychannel.com

1901 Film star Gary Cooper is born

1915 The British ocean liner *Lusitania* sinks in the Celtic Sea after being torpedoed without warning by a German submarine off the south coast of Ireland

1945 Germany surrenders unconditionally to the Allies at Reims

1954 French defeated by Viet Minh at Dien Bien Phu

1960 Leonid Brezhnev becomes Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet - the Soviet equivalent to the the presidency

1966 First hit by a co-ed group - "Monday, Monday", by the Mommas and the Papas

Scores MLB



AMERICAN LEAGUE

Boston 5
Cleveland 2

NATIONAL LEAGUE

San Diego 7
Atlanta 3

St. Louis 7
Philadelphia 4

Houston 5
Pittsburgh 2

Chicago 11
Arizona 3

Montreal 3
Colorado 1

Los Angeles 9
Florida 4

Cincinnati 9
Milwaukee 6

New York 2 (11 innings)
San Francisco 1

TV GUIDE

| | AFN ATLANTIC | AFN PACIFIC | AFN Sports | AFN Spectrum |
|--------------|--------------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|--|
| 18:00 | Ozzy & Drix/ As Told By Ginger | The Tonight Show with Jay Leno/ The Late Show with David Letterman | Totally NASCAR/ Baseball Tonight | The X-Files |
| 19:00 | Jeopardy/ Headline News | Access Hollywood 19:30 | SportsCenter | The Wild Thornberrys/ Spongebob Squarepants |
| 20:00 | ESPNNews/ Headline News | Conan The Barbarian | ESPNNews/ Baseball Tonight | The Simpsons/ The Cosby Show |
| 21:00 | Friends | North Shore 21:45 | Motorcycle Racing | The Dead Zone |
| 22:00 | Friends | | Motorcycle Racing | Boston Public |